

Interns In Action

Update

Interns in Action is a program operated by the Arizona Department of Administration designed to provide students enrolled in universities, colleges and community colleges an opportunity to work within various Arizona state agencies to gain exposure to the operations of state government. In 2010, ADDPC utilized its first intern to develop a resource directory which is now on the Council website. Since that time, 8 additional interns have been placed in the ADDPC office, all carrying out various functions in support of Council activities. Over the last 2 years, student interns have played a key role in developing and utilizing social media (Facebook) as a key tool for dispensing information and driving visitors to our website. This activity fits within the State Plan Goal of the Council, ***Empowerment through Information***.

In 2012, the Council began paying student interns, using a state contracted temporary employment agency as the mechanism for employment. The ADDPC approved this step and allocated \$14,311 to pay up to 30 hours per week in which 5 interns have participated. In 2013 Jeff, a young man who was referred to the Council by the Arizona Best Buddies program, became our first intern with an intellectual disability.* He played an important role in doing on-line research, participating in various Council meetings and consulting with ADDPC staff on a number of issues. Rachel and Josh were additional student interns in 2013, and performed critical activities to continue strengthening the social media site with extensive research and the placement of topics and issues that had broad appeal to a younger audience. Our current student, Ryann, has been with the Council since mid-summer and has responsibility for the both social media and some content development for the website. She will be continuing with the Council through April when she'll be graduating from ASU with a degree in Sociology.

In early January, a new intern will begin work with the Council. Brenda, a student at ASU majoring in Nonprofit Leadership & Management, will be supporting the Council in a different manner than previous interns. Due to her experience, Brenda will be assisting staff in the development of the **Employment First** Initiative as well as serving as an evaluator for the Request for Grant Application (RFGA) in Self-Advocacy. She'll also be researching/developing a proposal to increase the role of youth in self-advocacy issues in Arizona. Finally, Brenda will be involved in developing a Scope of Work for an upcoming employment RFGA. Brenda will be the ADDPC's first full-time intern during her semester of placement, working 40 hours per week for the 12 week period.

It is anticipated that following the graduation of Ryann in April 2014, a new intern will be recruited to continue the management of social media activities. In 2014, the Council will be striving to expand its use of social media by managing a Twitter account. The progress in this initiative will be reported to the Council throughout the year.

*Jeff was not part of the Interns in Action program